

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09024 120908Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 120840Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6407

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9024

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF EG

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. RELATING LATESTS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT ARAB
FUROR ABOUT THE SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, FAHMY TOLD
ME LAST NIGHT:

2. (A) GOE HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS CLOSE DOWN VOICE OF
PALESTINE STATION IN CAIRO. IT HAD PREVIOUSLY WARNED VOP
THAT ANY FURTHER ATTACKS ON EGYPT WOULD RESULT IN
CLOSURE.
FOR SOME TIME, VOP CAIRO HAD AVOIDED FURTHER ATTACKS ON
EGYPT, ALTHOUGH USG WAS SHARPLY ATTACKED. FAHMY SAID
THIS HAD TO
BE ALLOWED IF SADAT WAS NOT TO BE BRANDED AN
AMERICAN STOOGE. LAST STRAW WAS SPURIOUS VOP BROADCAST
OF TWO DAYS AGO OF AN ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON
SADAT AND FAHMY. ALTHOUGH BROADCAST TOOK PLACE IN BAGHDAD,
IT IS CLEARLY PART OF VOP NETWORK. HENCE, IN RETALIATION
AND TO TEACH THE PALESTINIANS A LESSON, VOP CAIRO HAS BEEN
CLOSED DOWN. FAHMY REGRETTEED THAT THIS HAD BEEN
NECESSARY, SINCE IT WILL FURTHER EXACERBATE EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS WITH THE PALESTINIANS.

3. (B) IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO CONVENE AN EXTRA-
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER
THE AGREEMENT. SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY,
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SAYED MAREI, WHO IS NOW IN LONDON, HAS BEEN ASKED TO

RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO CONVENE THE ASSEMBLY. PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY'S REVIEW IS INTENDED TO HELP DISPEL CHARGES
OF ARAB CRITICS THAT THE AGREEMENT IS UNPAPULAR IN EGYPT
AND HAS BEEN FORCED DOWN THE THROATS OF THE EGYPTIAN
PEOPLE. FAHMY WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT
SOME SHARP QUESTIONS MAY BE ASKED BY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS, WHICH WILL BE EMBARRASSING TO ANSWER.
EILTS

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